

MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 8, 2006

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Carl Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert, Chairman	Susan Neidlinger, DES/DDD
Lorenzo Aguirre, City of El Mirage	*Sandra Reagan, Southwest Community Network
Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way	Sylvia Sheffield, City of Avondale
Moises Gallegos, City of Phoenix	* Linda Snidecor, City of Goodyear
*Paige Garrett, Glendale Human Services Council	*Judy Tapscott, City of Tempe
Jayson Matthews for Kate Hanley, Tempe Community Council	Jeff Jamison for Wayne Tormala, City of Phoenix, Vice Chair
*Connie James, City of Scottsdale	Jessica Ponzio for Patrick Tyrrell, City of Chandler
Jim Knaut for Mary Lynn Kasunic, Area Agency on Aging	Neal Young, City of Phoenix
Barbara Knox, DES/RSA	
Eileen Hartnet for Margarita Leyvas, Maricopa County	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>
Joy McClain, City of Tolleson	Frances Delgado, Maricopa County
Joyce Lopez-Powell, VSUW	DeDe Gaisthea, MAG
*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise	Mark Holleran, CASS
Jose Mercado for Doris Marshall, City of Phoenix	Brande Mead, MAG
+Sandra Mendez, DES/CSA	Amy St. Peter, MAG
Kyle Moore, DES/ACYF	Teresa Franquiz, MAG

+Those members present by audio/videoconferencing.
*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

1. Open Meeting for Discussion
Chairman Harris-Morgan, Town of Gilbert, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and introductions ensued.
2. Call to the Audience
No comments were made.
3. Approval of May 11, 2006 Human Services Technical Committee Meeting
Chairman Harris-Morgan called for a motion to approve the May 11, 2006, meeting minutes. Moises Gallegos, City of Phoenix, moved to approve the minutes. Susan Niedlinger, DES, seconded the motion. The minutes passed unanimously.

4. Review of Process to Revise Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) Allocation Recommendation

Chairman Harris-Morgan introduced Amy St. Peter, MAG, who summarized the steps to revising the allocation recommendations to reflect the 19.722 percent cut proposed at the federal level. Chairman Harris-Morgan stated that at last month's HSTC meeting the Committee had a discussion about the SSBG reduction. The Committee agreed to spread the cuts evenly across all four target groups and to break into small work groups in June to develop recommendations for how the proposed funding cuts should be applied to the services within each target group.

Chairman Harris-Morgan continued by saying that he had tried to get on update on the status of the proposed reduction but was not able to do so. Joyce Lopez-Powell, VUSW, commented that she heard it did not pass the Senate, and didn't know if it had gone through the House. Ms. St. Peter followed up and said that the bill did pass the Senate with the same funding level as last year. Jayson Matthews, Tempe Community Council, commented that the House has supported the President's recommended funding cuts in the past. Chairman Harris-Morgan said that this provides an opportunity to advocate for this issue. Ms. St. Peter added that DES will submit the revised plan from today's meeting along with the original recommendations that do not include the proposed cuts in the hope that the revised plan won't be needed.

Mr. Gallegos, City of Phoenix, wanted to clarify the impact of the proposed cut on the state fiscal year versus the federal fiscal year. Mr. Young, City of Phoenix, said the 19.722 percent cut is actually only 75 percent of the actual cut being proposed because the federal year is a quarter behind the fiscal year used by DES. Ms. St. Peter said that the contracts would begin in the new state fiscal year in July with the same funding level as last year. If the cuts are implemented in the new federal fiscal year in October or later, then the remaining quarters to be billed would be reduced by more than 19.722 percent to make up for the earlier overpayments.

Mr. Matthews asked if the agencies know that funding cuts are being proposed. Ms. St. Peter replied that a number of non-profit agencies have called because they are concerned about the proposed cuts. She also said she has been unable to answer their questions about how the proposed cuts would affect their contracts because DES handles that end of the process. MAG recommends allocations for each target group and service category, but is not involved at the agency level.

Mr. Mark Holleran, CASS, shared the proposed cuts could decrease his DES contract by \$60,000, and this would affect 800 men, women and children at the Human Services Campus. He continued by saying there is a focus on advocating with the State and County on this issue, but he has not found a contact for the Federal level. Mr. Holleran commented that agencies need tools for advocacy. Chairman Harris-Morgan thanked Mr. Holleran for his comments.

Mr. Matthews said that the Committee had talked about advocacy at the last meeting and that Committee members could show their own Congressional representative the real impact of the proposed funding cuts.

Ms. Lopez-Powell added that on the national level, the United Ways of America are advocating on behalf of the agencies to educate policymakers against the funding cuts. This issue is high on their priority list.

Mr. Gallegos also commented that the Arizona Community Action Association has tried to get information about what is going on at the federal level and to advocate for local agencies, but it has not been easy task. He noted there is no champion for SSBG as there are for some other sources of funding. There are advocacy efforts going on also with the City of Phoenix.

5. Work Group Activity

Chairman Harris-Morgan excused the Committee to join their work groups: Adult, Children, Youth & Families; Elderly; Persons with Disabilities; and Persons with Developmental Disabilities. He reminded the Committee that it was necessary to come to a consensus on how the cuts are to be revised and that the Committee would need to reconvene to approve the recommended revisions today so that it could move forward through the MAG process for approval.

6. Revisions to SSBG Allocation Recommendations

- **Adults, Children, Youth and Families:** Mr. Gallegos reported that the group agreed on an equal across the board funding cut across each service category. He added it was difficult to know if the group is making the right decision by leaving funding at the status quo. He also commented that it was good that Mr. Holleran made his comments today because it helps the Committee to hear information on services.
- **Elderly:** Jim Knaut, AAA, reported that his group also had a good discussion and also came to the consensus that, although there is strong support for transportation and congregate meals, the proposed cut should be applied equally across each of the service categories. He noted that the group recognized that there is not enough funding out there to adequately fund any of the services.
- **Persons with Disabilities:** Barbara Knox, DES, reported that the group came to the same recommendation as well - to do equal across the board funding cuts. She also agreed that it was good to hear Mr. Holleran's comments and added that the group would like to hear from more agencies about their services, or even have a fact sheet on the services they provide.
- **Persons with Developmental Disabilities:** Susan Neidlinger, DES, reported that this work group has developed a different recommendation. Ms. Neidlinger said the group proposes to consolidate funding from all the service categories into just one category- extended employment. This recommendation is based on the desire to maximize the minimal amount of funding that would remain after the cuts if they are implemented. Ms. Neidlinger stressed that the other service categories would be funded through other sources and that clients would continue to receive the services without interruption.

Chairman Harris-Morgan called for a motion to recommend the SSBG revisions outlined above for approval if the 19.722 percent proposed cuts are confirmed at the federal level. Jim Knaut moved to accept the 19.722 percent across the board cut to the three target groups; Adult, Children, Youth & Families; Elderly; and Persons with Disabilities. The fourth target group, Persons with Developmental Disabilities, will combine all funding remaining after the 19.722 cut and recommend that it be wholly applied to Extended Supported Employment Services. Jayson Matthews seconded the motion and all voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Harris-Morgan thanked the Committee members and public who participated in the work groups for their diligent consideration on a difficult issue.

7. Summer Meeting Schedule

Chairman Harris-Morgan discussed the option of revising the summer schedule to accommodate those Committee members who would be on vacation over the summer. Ms. St. Peter commented that normally HSTC does not meet in August, but that they could request not to meet in July, or take July and August off and then not meet again until September.

Ms. Lopez-Powell asked if there was a need to meet in July due to SSBG and suggested that we could possibly keep July open just in case there was a need to meet again. Ms. St. Peter replied that there weren't any action items that needed immediate attention at this time and DES would not have any information on the funding outcome until later in the year.

Chairman Harris-Morgan called for a motion on the HSTC summer meeting schedule. Mr. Gallegos motioned to cancel the July meeting and then reconvene in August. Ms. Sheffield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Announcements

No announcements were made.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm. The next meeting of the Human Services Technical Committee is scheduled for Thursday August 10, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 pm at the MAG building, second floor, Cholla Room.